NATIONAL ISSUES FORUMS

Speakers: Ellen M. Knutson, Research Associate, Charles F. Kettering Foundation and Adjunct Assistant Professor, iSchool, University of Illinois

Bill Muse, President Emeritus, National Issues Forums Institute and Senior Associate, Kettering Foundation

Amy Lee, Program Officer, Charles F. Kettering Foundation
PRESENTATION AREA

CHAT WINDOW

ala.org/LTC-models    #librariestransform
QUESTIONS FOR TODAY’S PRESENTER?

1. Type your message in the Chat window

2. Make sure the “Send to” menu says “All Participants”

3. Click “Send”
PRESENTATION AREA

ala.org/LTC-models      #librariestransform
NEED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?

1. Type your request in the Q&A window

2. Make sure the “Ask” menu says “All Panelists”

3. Click “Send”
Audio Tips

Audio is broadcast via computer speakers or headset

You can adjust the volume in the Audio Broadcast window floating in the upper left hand corner of your screen:

If you lose audio, click the Audio Broadcast button (the little broadcast tower located along the bottom of the Participants window) OR click the Audio Broadcast option under the Communicate menu to reconnect:
NATIONAL ISSUES FORUMS

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SERIES 2: LEARNING SCHEDULE

**ONLINE LEARNING**

- **Introduction to Dialogue & Deliberation for Academic Libraries**
  *September 13, 2017*

- **Reflective Structured Dialogue Method with Essential Partners**
  *October 11, 2017*

- **National Issues Forums Institute**
  *November 15, 2017*

**IN-PERSON TRAINING WORKSHOP**

**Libraries Transforming Communities: National Issues Forums Workshop for Academic Libraries**
*February 9, 2018*

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TODAY’S PRESENTERS

Ellen M. Knutson  
Research Associate  
Charles F. Kettering Foundation

Bill Muse  
President Emeritus  
National Issues Forums Institute

Amy Lee  
Program Officer  
Charles F. Kettering Foundation

ala.org/LTC-models  #librariestransform
AGENDA

► What is NIF/NIFI, and how has it been used on college campuses?
► Decision-making and wicked problems
► Elements of a deliberative forum
► Common Ground for Action online platform
► Resources and training available
POLL QUESTIONS

Have you participated in an NIF-style deliberative forum in the past?
POLL QUESTIONS

► Have you moderated/facilitated a different kind of group process in the past?
Bill Muse

President Emeritus, National Issues Forums Institute and Senior Associate, Kettering Foundation
bmuse@nifi.org
Libraries serve as the center of intellectual engagement on the campus.
OPPORTUNITIES TO GAIN SUCCESS

Students can acquire and enhance their skills to advance in virtually any organization and in their daily lives.
CRITICAL THINKING

► Absorb and analyze important information
► Identify relationships
► Visualize potential solutions to a problem
► Evaluate problems deliberately before reaching a conclusion
EMPATHY AND WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOGETHER

► Express what is in their head and heart about things they value and share with others

► Willingness to listen carefully to what others share about their values

► Work effectively with others who are different from themselves
The Kettering Foundation and the National Issues Forums Institute have been working together for nearly 40 years to create and enhance a method of conversation and materials for forums.
PUBLIC DELIBERATION

A process in which a problem is carefully examined and possible options evaluated before conclusions are reached.
Safety and Justice

How Should Communities Reduce Violence?

Provide the information to structure the process of deliberation during a forum

www.nifi.org
CONVENE A FORUM

► Bring together a group of 10 – 18
► Secure a moderator and a recorder
► Issue guide
► START TALKING!
Ellen Knutson

Research Associate, Charles F. Kettering Foundation and Adjunct Assistant Professor, iSchool, University of Illinois
ellen.knutson@gmail.com
CENTER FOR PUBLIC DELIBERATION

Mission
Dedicated to enhancing local democracy through improved public communication and community problem-solving
Forums at the Atlanta University Center
Community Engagement Course

“This class gave me a community engagement mission and the encouragement to just start where I’m at [a community college], to see the possibilities in the people around me, and to take the first steps to the beginning of an impactful career.”
QUESTIONS?
At its core is a decision-making process.
KANER DIAMOND OF PARTICIPATORY DECISION-MAKING


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COMFORT ZONE

A SPACE FOR CREATIVITY

GRRRR ... NOT MUCH FUN!

I’M STARTING TO SEE THE LIGHT!

AND WE’VE MADE A DECISION


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## WHAT IS DELIBERATION?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Debate</th>
<th>Dialogue</th>
<th>Deliberation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compete</td>
<td>Exchange</td>
<td>Weigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argue</td>
<td>Discuss</td>
<td>Choose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote opinion</td>
<td>Build relationships</td>
<td>Make choices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seek majority</td>
<td>Understand</td>
<td>Seek overlap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persuade</td>
<td>Seek understanding</td>
<td>Seek common ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dig in</td>
<td>Reach across</td>
<td>Framed to make choices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tight structure</td>
<td>Loose structure</td>
<td>Flexible structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Express</td>
<td>Listen</td>
<td>Learn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usually fast</td>
<td>Usually slow</td>
<td>Usually slow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarifies</td>
<td>Clarifies</td>
<td>Clarifies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Win/lose</td>
<td>No decision</td>
<td>Common ground</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOT A PUBLIC HEARING

More than just “three minutes at the microphone”
NOT A DEBATE

Not trying to “win”
THINKING TOGETHER!

Weighing choices, exploring ideas
USE DELIBERATION WHEN:

► There is a decision that must be made about the issue
► There is lack of agreement about what is an issue
► There is disagreement on the cause of the problem, or the cause is not clear
► There is no definitive or single solution to the problem, but a decision needs to be made about what may be done
USE DELIBERATION WHEN:

► Every solution involves trade-offs or downsides that involve things held valuable
► The problem is intractable, ongoing or systemic
► People will face moral disagreements in deliberating on the issue
► Any solution will take multiple actors (e.g. community groups, individuals and government)
“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America”
# EXAMPLE: THINKING ABOUT VALUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preamble</th>
<th>Current Phrasing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Tranquility/Common Defense</td>
<td>Security/Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Welfare</td>
<td>Equality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty to ourselves</td>
<td>Freedom (for us)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty for our posterity</td>
<td>Freedom (for future generations)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which is your top value? What are you most willing to give up?
NIF ISSUE GUIDES

https://www.nifi.org/en/nifi-materials
ELEMENTS TO A FORUM

- Convener
- Moderator
- Recorder
- Participants
- Issue Guide
CONVENER

► Host forum
► Inviting the participants
MODERATING FORUMS

► Remain neutral
► Practice active listening
► Encourage story-telling and expression of different points of view
MODERATING FORUMS

► Help participants understand each other and their different perspectives

► Manage time, shifting focus when necessary
THE MODERATOR IS NOT

YOU WILL RESPECT MY AUTHORITY!

moderator kitteh

disapproves ur submishing.
MODERATING FORUMS

No one right way! Find your style and use it.
THE RECORDER

Captures the thoughts of the group

Photo Credit: Scott London
PARTICIPANTS

Photo Credit: Scott London
ISSUE GUIDE

Safety and Justice

How Should Communities Reduce Violence?

A framework for discussion
Option 1: Enforce the Law Together

Expand policing while strengthening community-police partnerships.

This option says that our top priority should be finding ways for communities and police to work together to stop violence of all kinds. Most Americans want safer streets and communities. Through neighborhood watch programs and community policing, citizens and police should identify sources of violence and work together to stop it.

But—more police officers visible in the community may create the sense that people are living in a police state. Some people may take the law into their own hands.

Examples of What Might Be Done

- Communities can hire and deploy significantly more police officers of diverse races and train them in community policing.
- Beef up and expand the use of neighborhood crime watch programs.
- Require police officers to live in the communities they serve.
- More citizens could fulfill their own obligations to the criminal justice system by reporting crimes and serving as witnesses and jurors.
- Train more people in the responsible use and carrying of firearms, and enact more “stand your ground” laws.

What else?

Trade-offs to Consider

- This could create the oppressive feel of a police state.
- This might erode community trust and neighbors could end up targeting people based on racial, ethnic, or religious biases.
- Some cities might find it harder to attract and hire new officers.
- Many people don’t want to participate in a system that they see as biased and unfairly burdensome.
- People may act as vigilantes.
- What’s the trade-off?

This option proposes that we put more trust in law enforcement and neighborhood watch efforts to ensure safety for all. How can we ensure that police officers will also observe the law? Are we confident that ordinary citizens can handle increased responsibility?
**Option 2: Apply the Law Fairly**

*Remove injustices, reform inequities, and improve accountability.*

**EXAMPLES OF WHAT MIGHT BE DONE**

- Limit the use of traffic stops and “stop and frisk” by police officers, and review other practices where racial profiling could come into play.
- Cities could invest more resources in schools in communities with higher poverty and crime rates.
- Require all law enforcement officers and court officials, including judges, to participate in implicit bias training.
- Using body cameras and smartphones, police and community members can document interactions, with videos made publicly available and independent prosecutors appointed to increase accountability.
- Reduce rates of arrest for minor drug and other non-violent crimes, especially in communities of color, and address disparities in sentencing for people of color.

**TRADE-OFFS TO CONSIDER**

- This would be taking away some of the tools police officers use to prevent crime before people are hurt.
- This would mean that tax dollars would go to communities where there is greater need, rather than being distributed equally.
- This may make it more difficult for officers to make necessary split-second life and death decisions out on the street.
- This could put privacy and trust at risk and lead members of the community to continually second-guess the police based on partial evidence. Some police officers may feel themselves targeted by the legal system.
- Some criminals would receive less punishment than they currently do. Community members would have to be willing to accept more repeat, nonviolent crimes being committed.

What else?

What’s the trade-off?

*This option argues that inequality and bias are at the root of much of the violence the nation is experiencing. Can becoming aware of these biases actually change behavior? Is police reform enough to adequately ensure all people feel safe in their communities?*
**Option 3:**

De-escalate and Prevent Violence

Reduce the culture of violence and take direct actions to disrupt conflict.

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**EXAMPLES OF WHAT MIGHT BE DONE**

- Community members can disrupt gang activity and stop violence before it occurs.
- States and cities can invest in more mental health treatment programs and hospital beds to reduce violence both against and by those with mental illness.
- Local governments could sponsor gun buy-back programs to reduce the number of guns in circulation.
- Cities could stop allowing police to use military hardware, especially for crowd control.
- Train all police officers in de-escalation techniques and enforce stricter use-of-force rules.
- What else?

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**TRADE-OFFS TO CONSIDER**

- Community members could put themselves and others at risk.
- This could result in more people being confined in mental hospitals for long periods.
- Those likely to participate in these programs are probably not the ones using guns for illegal purposes.
- Police officers might be underequipped or outnumbered in the worst situations, such as active shooter incidents.
- Police officers’ lives—and the lives of bystanders—could be endangered in some situations.
- What’s the trade-off?

---

This option says situations often unnecessarily escalate into violent confrontations. Do we expect too much of law enforcement? Is it reasonable to expect that citizen interventions can reduce violence?
ISSUE GUIDE

Safety and Justice
How Should Communities Reduce Violence?

Nothing but a tool....

ala.org/LTC-models #librariestransform
STAGES OF A FORUM

Welcome
The convenor or moderator introduces the NIF program.

Ground rules
Participants and the moderator review desired outcomes and agree on ground rules.

Getting started
One good way to start is for participants to take a few minutes to talk about their personal experiences with the issue and tell their stories. Sometimes the convenor or moderator begins by showing a starter video that reviews the problems underlying the issue.

Deliberation
Participants examine all the options. An approximately equal amount of time should be spent on each option.

Ending the forum
Participants reflect on what has been achieved.

Questionnaire
Participants complete the questionnaire.
SAMPLE GROUND RULES

Ground Rules for a Forum

Before the deliberation begins, it is important for participants to review guidelines for their discussion.

- Focus on the options.
- All options should be considered fairly.
- No one or two individuals should dominate.
- Maintain an open and respectful atmosphere.
- Everyone is encouraged to participate.
- Listen to each other.
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Safety and Justice

How Should Communities Reduce Violence?

NOW THAT YOU’VE HAD a chance to participate in a forum on this issue, we’d like to know what you are thinking. Your opinions, along with those of thousands of others who participated in these forums, will be reflected in a summary report that will be available to all citizens, including those who didn’t take part in the forums, as well as officeholders, members of the news media, and others in your community.

1. Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?
   a. The number of unarmed people of color who have lost their lives in encounters with the police shows there is something fundamentally wrong with the culture, training, and recruitment in too many of this nation’s police departments.
   b. We are expecting entirely too much of our police in asking them to deal with the rising incidence of irrational violence caused by mentally ill or drug-addicted persons who need medical intervention.
   c. We urgently need to increase understanding and mutual respect between police and people of color.
   d. When faced with life-threatening danger to themselves and civilians, we can’t ask police officers to take even more risks with their own safety.
   e. We need to tackle the growing disrespect for law enforcement in this country, especially among young people, and give the police the support and help they need and deserve.
   f. We need to face up to the fact that too many police officers routinely make snap judgments about citizens based on race and ethnicity, rather than on probable cause.

2. Do you favor or oppose each of these actions?
   a. The courts should reserve longer sentences for violent crimes, EVEN IF this means more small-time drug dealers and other nonviolent criminals are returned to the community.
   b. Cities and towns should greatly increase the number of police officers on the street, EVEN IF this means some citizens will feel as though they are living in a police state.
   c. Police departments should end the use of “stop and frisk” practices, EVEN IF this greatly reduces the ability of law enforcement to prevent crimes before they happen.

(Question 2 continued on next page)
Questions?
Amy Lee
Program Officer, Charles F. Kettering Foundation
alee@kettering.org
COMMON GROUND FOR ACTION

NIF ONLINE

ala.org/LTC-models #librariestransform
What would an online platform for deliberative forums need to be?

- Multi-person
- Synchronous
- Payoff
- Visually engaging
- Interactive
- Intuitive
Participants get introduced, review issue materials, share Personal Stories.

Participants choose their personal top 5 actions.

Individual evaluation of actions and drawbacks, followed by group discussion.

(Repeated for all 3 options.)

Review of actions across all 3 options, + reflection on changes.
SCATTER/GATHER

LOBBY

Individual Arrival → Becoming a group

BASELINE TOP 5

Individual Ranking

OPTION 1

Individual Evaluation → Group Deliberation

OPTION 2

Individual Evaluation → Group Deliberation → Group Deliberation

OPTION 3

Individual Evaluation → Group Deliberation

COMMON GROUND

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Participants get introduced, review the issue guide and video, and describe their personal stake.
Participants choose their personal top five actions from entire issue framing.
Participants individually evaluate all actions from one option.
Participants then individually evaluate drawbacks for each of those actions.
Individual responses produce an anonymized amalgamation of individual evaluations.

The group uses this graphic as the starting point for deliberation, but individuals can change their evaluations at any time and the graphic updates to reflect that shift in real time.
After examining all three options individually, the group then reflects on where they have identified common ground across all three options.
Lastly, the group examines how their judgment shifted from beginning of forum to end and reflects on any changes in perspective.
RESOURCES AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- National Issues Forums: www.nifi.org
- Libraries Transforming Communities: National Issues Forums Workshop for Academic Libraries at Midwinter Friday, February 9, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- ALA Center for Civic Life Webinars: discuss.ala.org/civicengagement/training
- Common Ground for Action Moderator Training
Series 2: For Academic Libraries

View Series 2 webinars on demand at: ala.org/LTC-models
REGISTER NOW

National Issues Forums Workshop for Academic Libraries
A free preconference at ALA’s 2018 Midwinter Meeting

February 9, 2018, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

https://apply.ala.org/ltcmidwinter
CLAIM YOUR BADGE

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Visit www.credly.com
2. Create an account or login
3. Click on “Claim Credit”
4. Enter “LTCAcademic3” to claim badge
EVALUATION

Please take a minute to fill out the brief post-webinar evaluation:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LTC2NIFIPost
Thank You!